Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082603 TOSEC 030111 ORIGIN AF-10

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S E C R E T STATE 082603 TOSEC 030111

FOR AF MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, LI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LIBERIA: BRIEFING MEMO

- 1. THE FOLLOWING REPLACES SECTION 4 OF THE PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING MEMO DEALING WITH THE HORN. QUOTE: THE HORN. U.S. OBJECTIVES: TO GAIN LIBERIAN UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR OUR HORN POLICIES. TO GET LIBERIA TO SPEAK OUT FOR A REDUCTION IN THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND AGAINST ETHIOPIAN REPRISALS IN THE OGADEN. TO STIMULATE LIBERIAN PRESSURES FOR OAU ACTION TO SETTLE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.
- 2. LIBERIAN OBJECTIVES: TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. ACTIVELY WILL OPPOSE GROWING SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE AND ACTIONS IN THE HORN AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 082603 TOSEC 030111

3. ESSENTIAL FACTORS: AS A MODERATE STATE, LIBERIA HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA AND HAS SUPPORTED OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS IN THE HORN CRISIS. LIBERIA IS A MEMBER OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY POSTPONED CONSIDERATION OF THE ETHIO-SOMALI ISSUE AND IS APPARENTLY NOW ABOUT TO

CANCEL ANOTHER MEETING ON THE ISSUE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10.

4. POINTS TO BE MADE: (A) WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE

POTENTIAL GEOPOLITICAL DESTABILIZATION OF THE HORN/RED SEA/MIDDLE EAST REGION BY THE LARGE RUSSIAN AND CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT.

- 5. (B) WE ARE VIGOROUSLY WORKING TO RESTRAIN, AND HOPEFULLY TO REDUCE, THE SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN THE HORN AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA; WE NEED PUBLIC AFRICAN SUPPORT TO BRING THIS ABOUT.
- 6. (C) SINCE WE FEEL THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA IS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING STABILITY TO THAT TROUBLED AREA, WE HOPE THAT LIBERIA WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE WITHIN THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS ARE REDOUBLED RATHER THAN ALLOWED TO FLAG NOW THAT THE FIGHTING IS OVER. UNQUOTE.

COOPER

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